

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMMBASSY COLOMBO

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INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR BG

SUBJECT: ZIA'S REMARKS ON NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

1. AT SMALL PRESS BRIEFING IN COLOMBO AUGUST 11, MAJOR GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN, CHIEF OF THE BANGLADESH ARMY AND LEADER OF BANGLADESH DELEGATION TO NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE STRESSED THAT ISSUES BEFORE SUMMIT CONFERENCE SHOULD INCLUDE PROVISION OF SAFEGUARDS FOR SOVEREIGNTY OF SMALL NATIONS AGAINST INTERFERENCE AND THREATS FROM OUTSIDE. IN WHAT HAS TO BE READ AS NOT-TOO-VEILED REFERENCE TO CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH INDIA, ZIAUR COMPLAINED THAT NEWLY EMERGING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD PROBLEMS WITH OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE THREATENING THEIR SOVEREIGN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

2. PROMPTED BY JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS, HE VOLUNTEERED THAT NO COUNTRY SHOULD TRY TO DOMINATE OR GAG ECONOMICALLY ANOTHER COUNTRY.

BANGLADESH'S SPECIFIC PROBLEMS
COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION, HE ADDED.

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3. HE ALSO CLAIMED TO SEE NO DANGER OF ANY FRICTION
DURING THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE "AS THE PRINCIPLE
OF FOVERIGN EQUALITY CONSTITUTED THE BEST MEANS
TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES."
SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OR NOT, IT IS BECOMING APPARENT
THAT, ASEXPECTED, BANGLADESH DOS INTEND TO USE
CONFERENCE TO TRY TO EMBARASS INDIA TO EXTENT
POSSIBLE, DESPITE ATTEMPTS BY SOME TO KEEP BILATERAL
ISSUES FROM INTRUDING ON NON-ALIGNED LOVE FEAST.
REED

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